from abroad or by resort to substitutes. The production of synthetic grains is being investigated and Government propose to take the initiative in this matter.

IRRIGATION

5. The three major irrigation schemes under execution, the Peechi, Chalakudi and Perinchani schemes, estimated to benefit a total area of over one lakh of acres are making satisfactory progress. A new scheme, the Vazhani scheme, intended to benefit about 11,000 acres, has also been taken up, while investigation is in progress of the Neyyar Irrigation scheme, which will enable an additional area of about 15,000 acres to be brought under the plough. The investigation of the Vembanad Lake scheme, including the construction of the Thannirmukkom bund and the Thottappally spill-way, has almost been completed. This scheme will protect about 1¼ lakhs of acres of land in Kuttanad from floods and sea-water, besides enabling the conversion of 45,000 acres of single crop lands into double crop. Minor irrigation has also been receiving the careful attention of my Government. The various lift irrigation schemes, schemes for construction of earthen dams, restoration of tanks, and opening of irrigation channels, are making very good progress.

AGRICULTURE

6. Owing to the intensive propaganda carried on by the Department of Agriculture, the use of scientific manures and improved strains of seeds has become a permanent feature of agriculture in the country. 2½ lakhs of acres of land in the important paddy growing areas of the State have been selected for intensive manuring, and 11,000 tons of manures supplied. The area under improved strains of paddy seeds has risen to 1,25,000 acres. Fifty-thousand acres of unreclaimed waste lands in the Kari area will be treated with scientific manures and it is expected that the whole area will be brought under paddy in the ensuing year. Arrangements are also being made for the supply of manures for tapioca cultivation.

7. The supply of electric power for de-watering punja lands is being rapidly expanded. It is the aim of my Government to supply cheap power as much as possible to aid cultivation. 30,000 acres of punja lands are at present under de-watering by electric power.

EDUCATION

8. My Government are spending about 25 per cent of the State's Revenues on education. The scheme of compulsory primary education is at present being worked in nine taluks of the State. Investigations are being made with a view to bringing two more taluks within the scheme in the next academic year.

9. My Government recognise the services rendered by private agencies to the development of education in this country from the primary to the highest stages. My Government are averse to interfering with the autonomy of private educational institutions except to the extent that is absolutely necessary to ensure their efficient administration.

10. There is a basic education training centre at Cherpu and Government is giving grant to two basic educational institutions. It is my Government's intention to establish departmental basic schools in the State as early as possible. A committee has been appointed to draw up schemes for the expansion and development of adult education and an adult education centre has been opened in Trivandrum.

INDUSTRIES

11. My Government have been pursuing a steady programme for developing indigenous industries. The mineral sands in the State are State property, and it is

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